

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 08950

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:CVIS, UR, US, EAIR
SUBJECT: VISAS FOR AEROFLOT CREWMEN

REF: (A) STATE 98388, (B) STATE 40630

1. RE PARAS 1 AND 2, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, PARA 5(II) OF THE ANNEX TO THE CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT, AS AMENDED (REFTEL B) OBLIGATES EACH SIDE TO THE UNDERSTANDING THAT CHARTER PROGRAMS PROPOSED BY AIRLINES OF BOTH SIDES FOR OPERATION THROUGH MARCH 31, 1979 BE APPROVED AND NEITHER RESTRICTS THE DESTINATIONS OF THE CHARTERS TO SPECIFIC CITIES NOR RESTRICTS WHICH AIRLINES RUN THE CHARTERS. THEREFORE, WHILE EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO DEPARTMENT'S TENTATIVE DECISION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE FAA AND CAB APPROVE AEROFLOT'S CHARTER PROGRAM TO FLY DIRECTLY FROM THE USSR TO LOS ANGELES AND SEATTLE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE AEROFLOT FIRST RECONFIRM IN WRITING THAT PARA 5 (II) OF THE ANNEX PERMITS ALL US AIRLINES -- NOT ONLY PAN AM -- TO RUN CHARTERS TO AND FROM
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ALL SOVIET CITIES WHICH ARE CONSIDERED PORTS OF ENTRY. SINCE SUCCESSIVE CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND USSR FREQUENTLY CONTINUE TO EMBODY POLICY FROM PREVIOUS YEARS, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ENSURE COMMITMENT OF AEROFLOT NOW TO SUCH AN INTERPRETATION OF PARA 5(II).

2. RE PARAS 3-6 REFTTEL A: WE FEEL THAT SOVIET EMBASSY

SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT CREW MEMBERS OF SOVIET CHARTERS
MUST APPLY FOR "D" VISAS AT LEAST 21 DAYS PRIOR TO FLIGHT.
ALTERNATELY, IF THE MFA GRANTS DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
ALTERNATE POINTS OF ENTRY, I.E. BREST, CHOP, ETC., WE
WOULD BE WILLING TO GRANT THESE VISAS ON DEMAND. WE
CLEARLY WANT TO TIE, HOWEVER, ANY WAIVING OF THE 21-DAY
RULE TO SIMILAR CONCESSIONS FOR EMBASSY PERSONNEL TRAVELING
TO/FROM THE U.S.S.R. TOON

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Message Attributes

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